
Quarterly Benefit Statistics

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board
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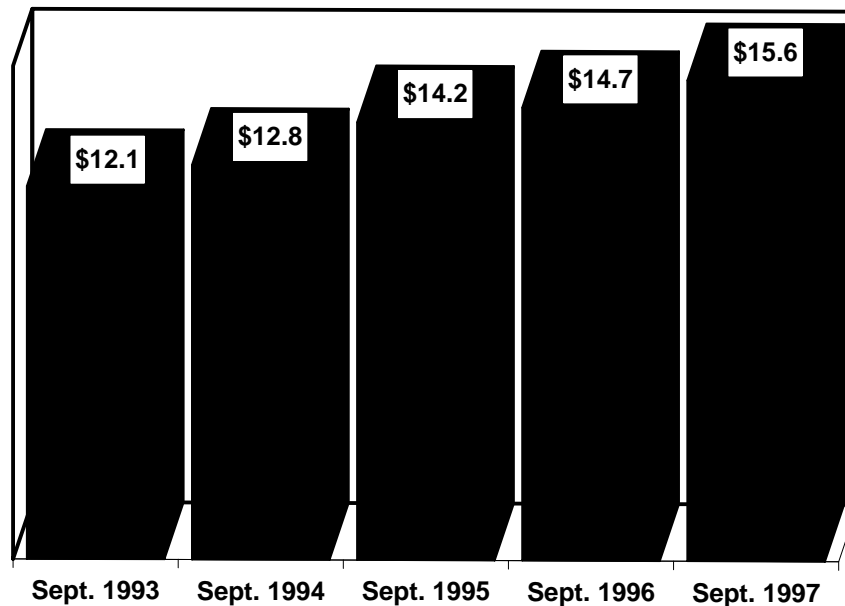
Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Programs

Selected Current Statistics for July - September 1997

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Railroad Retirement Balance (in billions)



Note.--The balance includes funds in both the Railroad Retirement and Social Security Equivalent Benefit Accounts.

Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics
July - September 1997

Period	Total ¹		Employee annuities				Spouse annuities	Divorced spouse annuities
			Age	Disability		Supple- mental		
	Monthly benefits	Monthly beneficiaries		Age under 65	Age 65 and over			
Number in current-payment status at end of period								
September 1997	906,751	741,905	255,664	37,361	41,702	155,721	177,720	3,679
August 1997	908,147	742,961	256,118	37,262	41,749	156,062	178,085	3,674
July 1997	909,034	743,593	256,414	37,194	41,732	156,297	178,318	3,671
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
September 1997	.....	.....	\$1,222.51	\$1,516.70	\$1,089.64	\$43.10	\$490.92	\$303.35
August 1997	.....	.....	1,220.78	1,514.65	1,087.86	43.12	490.41	302.98
July 1997	.....	.....	1,219.02	1,512.98	1,085.62	43.14	489.85	303.76
Number awarded during period								
September 1997	3,088	2,702	655	402	.....	386	729	32
August 1997	3,173	2,737	695	333	.....	436	747	26
July 1997	3,619	3,119	841	409	.....	500	789	39
10/96 - 9/97	38,334	33,791	7,421	4,878	.....	4,543	8,705	462
10/95 - 9/96	38,709	34,234	7,429	4,865	.....	4,475	9,101	474
Average amount awarded during period ²								
September 1997	.....	.....	\$1,601.07	\$1,605.60	.....	\$41.13	\$558.14	\$305.95
August 1997	.....	.....	1,617.12	1,611.37	.....	41.03	542.75	317.88
July 1997	.....	.....	1,625.90	1,615.90	.....	41.92	554.20	320.67
Benefit payments during period (thousands)								
September 1997	\$694,315	.....	\$312,022	\$69,002	\$44,877	\$7,056	\$88,933	\$1,248
August 1997	672,924	.....	311,573	55,092	45,206	6,426	86,718	1,088
July 1997	680,228	.....	309,683	62,482	44,443	6,765	88,086	1,207
10/96 - 9/97	8,205,697	.....	3,749,800	722,758	536,073	82,407	1,061,115	14,156
10/95 - 9/96	8,113,553	.....	3,736,830	668,457	521,789	86,181	1,062,318	13,558

¹Includes dependent parents' and survivor (option) annuities. Except for benefit payment data, excludes insurance lump-sum and residual payment figures. Benefit payments also include hospital insurance benefits for services in Canada. ²Regular employee and spouse annuity averages are preliminary estimates.

NOTE.--MONTHLY BENEFITS in CURRENT-PAYMENT STATUS at the end of month include all benefits awarded to date and payable for the month.

BENEFITS AWARDED consist of those certified for the first time on either a partial or final basis.

BENEFIT PAYMENTS for a month, shown in both the benefit and financial statistics, consist of recurrent monthly checks dated the first of the month, plus retroactive and lump-sum payments made during the month, less returned checks (excluding those not yet distributed by Account), refunds of benefits paid previously, etc. Data are on a cash basis (unaudited) and are partly estimated.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics -
July - September 1997 -- Continued**

Period	Annuities					Children	Insurance lump sums	Residual payments
	Aged widows and widowers	Disabled widows and widowers	Widowed mothers and fathers	Remarried widows and widowers	Divorced widows and widowers			
Number in current-payment status at end of period								
September 1997	197,447	6,202	1,462	6,064	8,976	14,665	.....	.....
August 1997	197,776	6,216	1,458	6,062	8,929	14,668	.....	.....
July 1997	198,028	6,225	1,448	6,046	8,889	14,683	.....	.....
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
September 1997	\$739.58	\$650.43	\$915.78	\$507.49	\$526.40	\$627.01	.....	.....
August 1997	738.52	649.89	913.80	506.73	526.14	626.46	.....	.....
July 1997	737.66	648.90	906.29	506.36	524.61	624.94	.....	.....
Number awarded during period								
September 1997	675	20	19	31	70	69	470	15
August 1997	721	15	22	29	68	81	446	6
July 1997	844	15	18	38	60	66	494	11
10/96 - 9/97	9,860	244	211	391	756	856	5,748	138
10/95 - 9/96	9,984	236	206	366	738	826	6,051	137
Average amount awarded during period ²								
September 1997	\$904.09	\$763.95	\$748.64	\$559.81	\$477.51	\$757.73	\$854	\$2,419
August 1997	872.18	882.05	952.07	617.03	578.72	807.88	857	3,934
July 1997	891.39	780.61	921.43	621.66	581.85	683.05	870	4,252
Benefit payments during period (thousands)								
September 1997	\$146,456	\$4,348	\$1,473	\$3,406	\$4,982	\$10,037	\$396	\$35
August 1997	144,503	3,929	1,310	2,935	4,525	9,160	393	25
July 1997	143,980	4,080	1,380	3,221	4,701	9,668	441	48
10/96 - 9/97	1,754,964	50,303	17,155	37,989	56,268	116,622	5,053	466
10/95 - 9/96	1,747,076	49,272	17,803	35,919	52,794	115,074	5,371	502

NOTE --(Continued from previous page.)

FOR WIDOWS and WIDOWERS aged 60 and over and WIDOWED MOTHERS and FATHERS, the number of benefits being paid and benefit payments include benefits temporarily being continued at spouse annuity rates, pending award of survivor annuities.

INSURANCE LUMP SUMS and RESIDUAL PAYMENTS are each counted only once with respect to an employee's death even though divided among 2 or more persons. Award data for insurance lump sums exclude deferred benefits, i.e., those payable a year after the employee's death.

Data on benefit payments are for CALENDAR MONTHS; all other data are for ACCOUNTING MONTHS ending on approximately the 20th of each month.

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics-
July - September 1997 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	September 1997	August 1997	July 1997	October 1996 - September 1997	October 1995 - September 1996
RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period¹	\$13,958,705	\$13,893,015	\$13,660,168	\$12,352,548	\$11,926,423
Income, total	358,418	400,525	572,952	5,685,925	4,529,946
Payroll taxes ²	³ 125,173	182,636	229,673	2,336,713	2,293,734
Income tax transfers ⁴	.....	.....	36,000	182,000	181,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	92,701	92,774	93,543	1,116,808	1,110,334
Undistributed canceled checks ⁵	-4,330	1,395	-6,208	-1,105	37
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments ⁵	1,893	169	57	1,215	-592
Uncashed check credits from U.S. Treasury ⁶	30	61	52	739	692
Financial interchange adjustment ⁷	.....	75,230	.....	918,334	.....
Repayment from Dual Benefits Payments Account ⁸	.....	.....	.....	.....	20,432
Repayments from RR Supplemental Account ⁸	.....	8,800	.....	27,100	13,800
Interest on investments ⁹	142,951	39,459	219,835	1,104,121	910,510
Outgo, total	344,855	334,835	340,105	4,066,205	4,103,820
Benefit payments ¹⁰	248,649	238,254	242,765	2,902,294	2,854,514
Payments of SSA benefits	92,925	92,764	93,557	1,116,840	1,110,322
Loans to Dual Benefits Payments Account	.....	.....	.....	.....	20,192
Loans to RR Supplemental Account	.....	.....	.....	.....	68,000
Administrative expenses ¹¹	3,100	3,640	3,576	44,678	47,967
Funding for Office of Inspector General	181	176	207	2,393	2,442
Funding for Special Management Improvement Fund	.....	.....	.....	.....	382
Balance at end of period¹	13,972,268	13,958,705	13,893,015	13,972,268	12,352,548
RAILROAD RETIREMENT SUPPLEMENTAL ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period	\$37,150	\$42,392	\$39,563	\$41,230	\$27,581
Income, total	5,257	10,131	9,794	105,853	115,827
Taxes ²	³ 5,093	9,896	9,612	103,568	68,279
Loan from Railroad Retirement Account	.....	.....	.....	.....	68,000
Interest on investments ⁹	163	235	181	2,284	-20,452
Outgo, total	7,058	15,373	6,965	111,734	102,179
Benefit payments	7,056	6,426	6,765	82,407	86,181
Repayments to Railroad Retirement Account ⁸	.....	8,800	.....	27,100	13,800
Administrative expenses ¹¹	-6	140	192	2,130	2,089
Funding for Office of Inspector General	7	7	8	96	94
Funding for Special Management Improvement Fund	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Balance at end of period	35,349	37,150	42,392	35,349	41,230

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics -
July - September 1997 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited) -- Continued**

Item	September 1997	August 1997	July 1997	October 1996 - September 1997	October 1995 - September 1996
SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period	\$1,653,210	\$1,701,978	\$1,651,932	\$2,319,402	\$2,265,022
Income, total	425,662	439,101	464,996	9,103,003	8,747,933
Payroll taxes ²	³ 144,063	172,190	180,648	1,990,513	1,872,324
Income tax transfers ⁴	.....	.....	11,000	56,000	46,000
Financial interchange advances ⁸	273,955	258,682	265,648	3,183,917	3,150,088
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	3,747,195	3,556,254
Interest on investments ⁹	7,644	8,230	7,699	125,378	123,267
Outgo, total	422,748	487,869	414,949	9,766,281	8,693,553
Benefit payments ¹⁰	421,014	410,667	412,952	5,004,630	4,939,441
Repayment of financial interchange advances ⁸	.....	.....	.....	3,398,974	3,329,480
RRB-HCFA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	419,087	401,311
Financial interchange adjustment ⁷	.....	75,230	.....	918,334	.....
Administrative expenses ¹¹	1,649	1,890	1,900	24,136	21,858
Funding for Office of Inspector General	85	82	97	1,120	1,269
Funding for Special Management Improvement Fund	.....	.....	.....	.....	194
Balance at end of period	1,656,124	1,653,210	1,701,978	1,656,124	2,319,402
DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT¹²					
Balance at beginning of period	\$6,017	\$5,293	\$4,673	.....	.....
Congressional apportionments ¹³	18,219	18,300	18,366	\$213,005	\$228,005
Loans from Railroad Retirement Account	.....	.....	.....	.....	20,192
Income tax transfers	.....	.....	.....	10,000	11,000
Vested dual benefit payments	17,596	17,577	17,745	216,365	233,416
Repayment to Railroad Retirement Account	.....	.....	.....	.....	20,432
Balance to be returned to U.S. Treasury	6,640	.....	.....	6,640	5,350
Balance at end of period	.....	6,017	5,293	.....	.....

¹Balances include liabilities for uncashed checks. As of the end of September 1997, liabilities were \$5,384,000. ²Net of U.S. Treasury adjustments for payroll tax refunds to certain carriers and their employees for prior periods. Also reflects adjustments for misclassified supplemental taxes. Cumulative fiscal year 1996 amounts reflect adjustments for misclassified supplemental annuity tax refunds for current and prior periods. ³Net of U.S. Treasury year-end adjustments: -\$64.6 million for RR Account, -\$2.8 million for RRS Account and -\$52.7 million for SSEB Account. ⁴Includes U.S. Treasury adjustments for prior period income tax reconciliations. ⁵Net of amounts distributed by account. ⁶Net of returns of uncashed check credits. Includes undistributed canceled checks under 1-year limited payability. ⁷Reflects adjustments in benefit payments charged to the SSEB Account for October 1984-December 1995, as compared to actual financial interchange benefits, with interest through August 1, 1997. ⁸Includes interest. ⁹Net of adjustments for payroll tax refunds (see note 2). Cumulative fiscal year 1996 amounts reflect adjustments for misclassified supplemental annuity tax refunds for current and prior periods. RR Account: Amounts reflect changes in market value of zero coupon bonds. ¹⁰Net of adjustments for canceled checks for prior periods. ¹¹Reflects adjustments for prior periods. ¹²Total vested dual benefits paid during a fiscal year are limited to the amount appropriated to the Dual Benefits Payments Account for that year. Any amounts not spent are returned to the U.S. Treasury. The benefit appropriation for fiscal year 1997 was \$223 million, including income tax transfers. The appropriation for fiscal year 1996 was \$239 million. ¹³Includes a small amount of interest on uncashed checks.

NOTE. --Data relate to CALENDAR month. RRS loan balance at the end of September 1997, including interest, was \$32,805,000.

Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

Table 3: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Benefit Statistics
July - September 1997

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
Unemployment						
September 1997	749	590	5	2,421	2,206	230
August 1997	886	1,220	7	2,470	2,103	378
July 1997	2,411	1,278	186	2,312	1,910	530
7/97 - 9/97	4,046	3,088	198	7,203	6,219	1,138
7/96 - 9/96	6,461	4,037	278	5,391	4,511	1,306
Sickness						
September 1997	2,074	1,642	13	6,100	5,760	369
August 1997	2,274	3,117	32	5,953	5,332	662
July 1997	7,406	3,585	264	5,355	4,580	984
7/97 - 9/97	11,754	8,344	309	17,408	15,672	2,015
7/96 - 9/96	11,518	6,542	361	9,081	7,952	1,732
	Number of payments			Averages ¹		
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week	Benefit payments (thousands)
Unemployment						
September 1997	5,106	4,552	554	9.0	\$214.40	\$1,918
August 1997	4,948	4,148	800	8.9	214.25	1,793
July 1997	4,805	3,721	1,084	8.5	211.30	1,674
7/97 - 9/97	14,859	12,421	2,438	8.8	213.35	5,385
7/96 - 9/96	21,272	15,549	5,723	8.8	179.79	6,156
Sickness						
September 1997	12,735	11,976	759	9.2	\$214.80	\$3,481
August 1997	11,665	10,387	1,278	9.1	214.60	1,861
July 1997	12,006	9,820	2,186	8.9	211.30	2,878
7/97 - 9/97	36,406	32,183	4,223	9.1	213.60	8,221
7/96 - 9/96	35,661	28,103	7,558	9.5	179.85	5,306

¹Benefit days--average benefit days per registration period. Benefit per week--equal to 5 times average daily benefit.

NOTE--An unemployment claimant files only one APPLICATION for a benefit year. A sickness claimant files an APPLICATION at the beginning of each period of continuing sickness.

NORMAL BENEFIT ACCOUNTS are opened when the first payment is made.

The number of BENEFICIARIES is the count of persons receiving unemployment or sickness benefits in the period. Those receiving both normal and extended benefits for unemployment or sickness are counted only once in the total for each type.

PAYMENTS generally cover 14-day registration periods. For registration periods beginning prior to October 9, 1996, no benefits were payable for first claims for unemployment or sickness in a benefit year, which generally resulted in a 14-day waiting period. Effective with registration periods beginning October 9, 1996, and later, benefits are payable for days over 7 during an employee's first 14-day registration period.

Sickness benefits are paid for days of sickness after the 4th consecutive day of sickness in the first claim in each period of continuing sickness; for subsequent registration periods in the same period of continuing sickness, payments are made for all days of sickness over 4 whether or not consecutive. Unemployment benefits are paid for days of unemployment over 4. However, in the case of unemployment benefits due to a legal authorized strike, unemployment benefits are not paid until after a 14-day waiting period. Non-strikers unemployed due to an illegal strike must also serve a 14-day waiting period.

(Continued on next page.)

**Table 4: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Financial Statistics-
July - September 1997 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	September 1997	August 1997	July 1997	October 1996 - September 1997	October 1995 - September 1996
RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period	\$73,555	\$77,041	\$77,156	\$124,676	\$173,608
Income, total	1,256	244	4,525	18,557	17,851
Contributions	46	1,041	3,074	11,194	6,232
Interest on investments	1,314	20	1,454	7,008	11,015
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments ¹	-104	-818	-3	-339	-84
Transfers from Administration Fund	.....	.....	.....	694	689
Outgo, total	5,476	3,729	4,640	73,898	66,783
Unemployment benefit payments	1,918	1,793	1,674	37,478	40,724
Sickness benefit payments	3,481	1,861	2,878	35,390	24,852
Funding for Office of Inspector General	77	75	88	1,030	1,186
Funding for Special Management Improvement Fund	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Balance at end of period	69,335	73,555	77,041	69,335	124,676
RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION FUND					
Balance at beginning of period	\$5,847	\$8,090	\$4,848	\$4,821	\$4,634
Income, total	161	-904	4,590	16,891	17,373
Contributions ²	49	-904	4,479	16,486	16,924
Interest on investments	112	.....	110	405	449
Outgo, total	1,125	1,339	1,347	16,830	17,185
Administrative expenses	1,125	1,339	1,347	16,136	16,497
Transfers to RUI Account	.....	.....	.....	694	689
Balance at end of period	4,883	5,847	8,090	4,883	4,821

¹Net of distributed amounts. ²Negative amounts reflect adjustments or refunds of overpaid contributions.

NOTE.--(Continued from previous page.)

BENEFIT PAYMENTS are on a cash basis (unaudited) and represent amounts paid during the period including retroactive payments, less recoveries distributed to beneficiary accounts, refunds, and cancellations of previous payments.

ADMINISTRATION FUND balances reflect current adjustments to income and disbursements for previous years.

All unemployment and sickness data relate to CALENDAR MONTHS.

LEGISLATION enacted on October 9, 1996, increased the maximum daily benefit rate, revised the formula for indexing future benefit rates, and reduced the initial benefit waiting period. The amendments also apply an earnings test to some unemployment claims and reduce the maximum number of weeks in extended benefit periods for long-service employees.

Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

Table 5: Benefits and Beneficiaries -- September 1997
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RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR

Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)	\$694,315,000
Regular benefits	669,663,000
Vested dual benefits	17,596,000
Supplemental annuities	7,056,000

	Number	Average
Total benefits being paid at end of month	907,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	335,000	\$1,239
Supplemental	156,000	43
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	181,000	487
Aged widows' and widowers'	197,000	740
Other survivors'	37,000	598
Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month	742,000	.....

UNEMPLOYMENT-SICKNESS

	Unemployment	Sickness
Benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)	\$1,918,000	\$3,481,000
Beneficiaries	2,400	6,100
Average payment per week	\$214	\$215